



BUCKS COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Virtual Meeting at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vy0IripYuel&feature=youtu.be>

Date: March 11, 2021

Time: 11:30 AM

PRESENT:

David R. Breidinger, Presiding

Richard Balukas, Ed.D.

James Dancy

Broadus Davis, Ed.D.

Blake Eisenhart

Frank Farry

Elizabeth Fineburg

Otto Grupp III

Shams Huda

Thomas Jennings

William Maeglin

Carol Mignoni-Ferguson

Carol Shelly

Philip Wursta

Jeffrey Garton, Esq

Stephanie Shanblatt

Absent: Linda Mannherz

Trustee virtual attendance was confirmed by roll call.

Mr. Breidinger called the meeting to order at 11:35 AM. He announced that earlier in the day the Board of Trustees met in executive session to discuss real estate, labor relations and personnel matters.

Upon motion by Ms. Fineburg, seconded by Ms. Shelly, the board approved the minutes of the February 2021 meeting.

Mr. Breidinger announced that the opportunity for public comment was available through email at PublicComment@bucks.edu Comments will be shared at the end of the meeting.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Breidinger began the meeting by offering special thanks, on behalf of the entire Board of Trustees, to everyone at the college for the incredible work done over the past year to keep learning on track for our students.

Next Blake Eisenhart, Chair of the Presidential Search Committee, reported that the Search Committee and the entire Board is sincerely appreciative of the participation of those who interacted with the candidates and provided feedback. The Board is deliberating on the selection and the next public comment will be the announcement of the next president.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Shanblatt reported that *Fire Up the Poems: Poetry Prompts for Teachers*, the new book published by the Poet Laureate Program of Bucks County Community College, is being distributed gratis to Language Arts teachers throughout Bucks County. Written by 20 local Poets Laureate, this book of ready-to-use prompts gives teachers new, creative tools to encourage poetry writing in their middle and high school classrooms. Thanks to Poet Laureate Director, Professor Ethel Rackin, and the contributing poets for making this project a reality.

More good news is that the student newspaper, the Centurion, won a record 17 awards in the statewide Keystone journalism contest for 2021. The paper has now won a total of 134 awards since 2010. They swept the sports and video categories, and took a number of 1st and 2nd place awards in other categories. The students completed all of the work from their homes since they were unable to use campus facilities to produce the paper, making this an even more impressive accomplishment. We offer sincere appreciation to journalism Professor Tony Rogers for his continued work with these talented students.

Dr. Shanblatt made the gardeners in the audience aware that the annual Tyler Gardens and Landscaping Lecture, a collaboration between the Foundation and Professor Emeritus Lyle Rosenberger, will be held virtually on Earth Day, April 22. It will take place at 7 p.m. in the Zlock Performing Arts Center's digital space, visit bucks.edu/tickets to reserve your spot. The lecture will feature an interactive program with renowned garden photographer, Rob Cardillo. Proceeds support the preservation efforts of the Tyler Formal Gardens.

The President congratulated the Counseling Services department for their excellent work in bringing Mental Health First Aid Training to the college through the work of Professor Mandy Reilly, Faculty Counselor, and Dekia Smith, Associate Dean for Student Success & Retention. Both became certified trainers and learned to teach the course virtually. To date 24 faculty and staff have been trained with another session scheduled shortly to bring the total to 30. Three training sessions are planned during the summer to prepare for the new academic year. Long-term plans include extending trainings to the Bucks County community and partnering with other areas of the college such as Public Safety and Continuing Education. Thanks to Mandy and Dekia for bringing this valuable program to the college.

The pandemic has increased the stress level for most individuals including our students who struggle to balance multiple life roles as they pursue their academic goals. A variety of programs are offered to assist our students through the efforts of Vicki Mansure, Rose Cooper and Mandy Reilly. *Talk About It Tuesdays* student engagement series includes topics like managing stress, discovering your personality type and managing the winter blues.

Another option, *Helping Students Manage Stress While Managing Your Own* workshop, was offered for the administrative staff, tutors and peer mentors of the Academic Success Center. Finally, *Student Support Group* is held every Friday and provides space for student to connect and address topics of interest to those in attendance.

Dr. Shanblatt communicated that the college recently officially became recognized as a Military Friendly® School. Military Friendly® is the standard that measures an organization's commitment, effort and success in creating sustainable and meaningful benefit for the military community. The ranking is based on a variety of factors including academic policies, graduation and career outcomes, and military student support and retention. The college is listed on the Military Friendly® Schools website and can use the Military Friendly® School designation on our website and marketing materials. Thanks to Lizanne Watts and those who assisted her in this earning this designation for the college.

Last night the college invited prospective students and their parents to tune in to "Music in March" to learn more about the nationally accredited School of Music. The highly respected School of Music has launched local students into successful bachelor's degree programs and performance opportunities. Attendees enjoyed a video featuring interviews with current students and successful alumni who have gone on to careers in rock, jazz, opera, and classical music. A question-and-answer session featuring the department dean, music faculty, and admissions staff followed. Thanks to our excellent Music faculty for providing this opportunity to learn more about music at Bucks.

The President recognized two members of the Art faculty who have recently been honored through exhibition of their work. Professor Wendy Tuminello was selected for the 2020 Worldwide Art Competition by King House Gallery, Stratford-Upon-Avon. Her image was showcased in *King House Art Magazine* and their online gallery. Professor Maria Dumlao's print is included in the exhibition *Through the Lens: Modern Photography in the Delaware Valley* at Michener Art Museum. The exhibition features work by photographers with ties to the region and is on view through August 15.

In conclusion Dr. Shanblatt highlighted women's history programs offered during March which is Women's History Month. Included are historian Trish Chambers presenting on Women on the US Supreme Court and local Bucks County historian Shirley Castor presenting "Hidden Figures" about three female mathematicians who calculated flight trajectories for NASA in the 1960s. Congratulations to Chief DEI Officer Kevin Antoine who was elected chairperson of the Newtown Township Human Relations Commission (HRC). The commission oversees the Township's nondiscrimination ordinance and DEI efforts.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ACADEMIC, STUDENT & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE – Carol Shelly, Chair

Dr. Rodney Altemose, Campus Dean Upper Bucks Campus, provided an overview of recent events on the Perkasi Campus. The campus leadership team has continued to provide opportunities for student personal growth in the virtual learning environment. Programs such as *Launch Pad* and *Goals Workshops* allowed students to engage in topics including confident communication, time management, resume writing and organizational skills, all of which will benefit attendees both in and out of the classroom. Clubs and organizations remained active and sponsored fundraisers, book discussions and fun contests to help students connect while not on campus. Interaction with local high schools continued with events held for Pennridge and Quakertown as well as Upper Bucks Tech School. While physically touring the campus is not possible now, a new virtual campus tour will launch later this month. The team at Upper Bucks is looking forward to and planning for return to campus in the fall.

James Sell, Campus Dean Epstein Campus at Lower Bucks, reviewed recent happenings at the campus. The campus tradition of hosting political debates continued as the First Congressional District candidates was broadcast to the community. The partnership with Bucks County Opportunity Council to provide fresh food through the *Fresh Connect* program continued by practicing the required precautions. The campus was also the site for a campaign rally for now President Biden. Engagement with partner high schools carried on with programs offered for Truman, Bensalem, and Bristol Borough High Schools, along with the Bucks County Technical High School. Traditional events such as Constitution Day and holiday celebrations were offered virtually along with fun opportunities such as name that holiday tune, trivia contents and social media contests. The campus was the site for radiography and medical lab technician classes. Plans are being now for the fall return to a fuller onsite presence at the Bristol campus.

CONSENT AGENDA – Linda Mannherz, Finance Committee Chair

Mr. Breidinger announced that all action items would be considered on the Consent Agenda. Trustees were advised that if discussion were requested on any item, that item would be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Wursta presented the Consent Agenda.

Upon motion by Mr. Wursta and second by Dr. Davis, the Board of Trustees approved the following:

Finance Committee:

Other Contract Awards

- **Hicks Center Gallery Lighting to MJF Electrical Contracting & Maintenance, Inc. for \$33,500.**
- **Ultrasound machine purchase to Meridian Leasing Corporation for \$41,849.**

- **Upgrade Rollins Center and Lower Bucks Campus video cameras and software to CSi for \$93,255.**
- **Zoom software maintenance and licensing agreement for one year for \$26,299.**

Ad hoc Naming/Gift Committee:

- **Revision of Policy 1.7 Naming Facilities and Naming Opportunities**

PUBLIC COMMENT

President Shanblatt reported that no public comment was received.

BOARD COMMENT

There was no board comment.

ADJOURN

Upon the motion to adjourn being duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 12:20 P.M. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held virtually April 8, 2021 at 11:30 AM.

Carol Mignoni Ferguson, Secretary